

A1
concluded
amount of cross-linkers bound to the polymer by at least one functional group, is from 20% to 90%.

A2
3. (Amended) The hydrogel composition of claim 1, wherein the amount of dangling cross-linkers is from 20% to 70%.

4. (Amended) The hydrogel composition of claim 1, wherein the amount of dangling cross-linkers is from 30% to 50%.

7. (Amended) The hydrogel composition of claim 6, wherein the hydrogel polymer has a weight average molecular weight of 1,000 to 50,000 dalton.

A3
8. (Amended) The hydrogel composition of claim 6, wherein the hydrogel polymer has a weight average molecular weight of 1,000 to 30,000 dalton.

9. (Amended) The hydrogel composition of claim 6, wherein the hydrogel polymer has a weight average molecular weight of 1,000 to 10,000 dalton.

A4
17. (Amended) A hydrogel composition comprising a hydrogel polymer prepared using an excess amount of cross-linker having two or more functional groups capable of cross-linking the polymer such that the polymer has cross-links to other hydrogel polymer molecules and also has dangling cross-linkers with at least one functional group bound to a hydrogel polymer and at least one unbound functional group capable of reversibly cross-linking the polymer, wherein the cross-linker is a compound with at least two aldehyde

A⁴ groups and the hydrogel polymer is a polymer containing or modified to contain hydrazide groups.

✓
CANCEL claim 2 without prejudice or disclaimer.

Add the following new claims:

--20. The hydrogel composition of claim 17, wherein the amount of dangling cross-linkers, based on the total amount of cross-linkers bound to the polymer by at least one functional group, is from 20% to 90% .

A⁵ 21. The hydrogel composition of claim 17, wherein the amount of dangling cross-linkers is from 20% to 70%.

22. The hydrogel composition of claim 17, wherein the amount of dangling cross-linkers is from 30% to 50%.--
